

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

Twentieth Annual Session

OF THE

Warrior River Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Mt. Tabor Baptist Church,

BLOUNT COUNTY, ALA.,

October, 11th, 12th and 14th, 1878.

OFFICERS :

Elder P. M. MUSGROVE, Cullman, Ala.

W. Y. ADAMS, Gum Springs, Blount Co., Ala.

JOHN D. HENDRICKS, Wooten, Blount County, Ala.

SELMA :

ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT.

1878.

MINUTES.

MT. TABOR BAPTIST CHURCH,
Blount County, Ala., Oct. 11, 1878.

The Warrior River Association met with the church above named, 11 o'clock, a. m. In the absence of brethren appointed, the introductory sermon was preached by Eld. V. H. Dean, from Rom. x:13.

After thirty minutes recess met in the house. The former Moderator being absent, the body entered upon business by electing Eld. P. M. Musgrove Moderator, "pro. tem." Appointed Eld. V. H. Dean and John D. Hendricks to draft order of business. Their report was heard and adopted.

Letters from the various churches were read, and names of messengers enrolled. Elected Eld. P. M. Musgrove Moderator, W. Y. Adams Clerk, and John D. Hendricks Treasurer. A letter, petitioning membership, from the Baptist Church at Blountsville, was received, and the right hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator to her messenger.

Invited G. L. Brindley, H. C. Reid and A. Adams, visiting ministers, to seats.

Welcomed Eld P. J. Ellis, correspondent from Canaan Association, and Eld. C. A. Burns and Bro. A. J. Manning, with minutes from Sulphur Spring. Appointed committees as follows :

On missions—H. W. Watson, W. H. Lyons and Eld. Jas. Fields; on Sabbath Schools—Eld. J. M. Thomas, and brethren A. Dorman and J. H. Jett; on Temperance—Eld. V. H. Dean, and brethren J. D. Hendricks and J. M. Murphree; on State of Religion—W. H. Lyons, W. S. Earl and C. M. Thomas; on Finance—W. L. Ellison and T. K. McDonald; on Documents—A. Dorman, E. K. Head and R. C. Ledbetter; on Devotion—Jonas Carns, W. L. Ellison, E. K. Head, and Deacons of Mt. Tabor Church. Prayer by Eld. J. M. Thomas. Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock, a. m., Saturday.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock,

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Eld. Jas. Fields. Roll call. Read Constitution and Rules of Decorum. Read and corrected minutes of yesterday.

Appointed union meetings as follows:

1st District. Mt Tabor, 4th Sabbath in July; P. M. Musgrove to preach the introductory sermon.

2nd. District. Harmony, 1st Sabbath in August; G. B. Wade to preach the introductory sermon.

Appointed correspondence. To Cherokee—Eld. James Fields, and brethren W. H. Lyons and A. F. Whitley; to Canaan—A. F. Whitley, H. W. Watson and Eld. V. H. Dean; to Sulphur Springs—Elds. P. M. Musgrove, J. M. Thomas, James Fields and brethren J. M. Murphree and J. H. Jett; to Muscle Shoals—Elds. J. M. Thomas, P. M. Musgrove and Bro. H. W. Watson.

Appointed Delegates to the Ala. Bapt. State Convention; viz: Elds. J. Fields, J. M. Thomas, P. M. Musgrove, G. B. Wade, E. P. Mitchell, J. M. Steward, and brethren A. Dorman, H. W. Watson, M. F. Cornelius, C. M. Thomas, Wm. M. Chamblee, J. C. Kimbrough, W. H. Lyons, John Lowery, W. M. Richards, J. M. Murphree, S. W. Hays, A. J. McCarley, J. S. Earl and W. E. Murphree. On motion Bro John A. Wiley, agent for "The Alabama Baptist," was invited to a seat.

Received and adopted report on Temperance. (See Appendix A.) and state of Religion (B.) Reports on Sabbath Schools, Missions and Documents received, and, on motion, were laid on the table. Prayer by Eld. C. A. Burns. Adjourned to meet at 8½ o'clock, a. m., Monday.

SUNDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock.

Sabbath School lecture by Eld. J. M. Thomas and H. W. Watson. 11 o'clock, preaching by P. M. Musgrove; 2 o'clock, p. m., preaching by Eld. James Fields. The meeting was well attended and much interest manifested.

MONDAY MORNING,

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Eld. J. M. Steward. Took reports on Sabbath Schools, (C.) Missions, (D.)

and Documents, (E.) from the table, investigated, amended, and adopted. Received and adopted report of our missionary, (F.) Also, report on Finance, (G.) Committee appointed to re-district the Association, viz: V. H. Dean, W. M. Chamblee and E. P. Mitchell. For report, see Statistics. Heard Bro. John A. Wiley in behalf of the "Alabama Baptist." Adopted Circular letter, and directed the Clerk to have it printed in the minutes.

Appointed the following brethren as Trustees of Mulberry College, viz: P. M. Musgrove, W. Y. Adams, D. L. James, A. Burns, J. H. Berrier, E. G. Musgrove, J. W. Gamble, J. M. Legrand and C. A. Burns.

On motion a committee of five was appointed to arrange missionary work in the Association, in connection with the State Mission Board, viz: John D. Hendricks, W. H. Musgrove, A. J. Phillips, E. K. Head and H. H. Mitchell.

Proposed amendment to Art. 11, of the constitution, providing for a preacher on missions, adopted.

The Clerk was directed to retain five dollars of the funds for his services and have so many copies printed as the remaining funds will justify.

The next session of the Association will convene with Macedonia church, fourteen miles North-east of Blountsville, Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in September, 1879.

On motion each church was requested to report immediately to the Executive committee what they would pay toward the support of the mission cause the ensuing Associational year. Elected Eld. J. Y. Bain to preach the introductory sermon; G. B. Wade to preach the missionary sermon and W. H. Musgrove to write circular letter.

Resolved; That this Association approve most heartily of our State mission work, and recommend it to every church within our bounds, with the request that they sustain it with prayers and substantial aid.

Resolved; That we take pleasure in recommending to our people, and to all others, having sons and daughters to educate, the "Howard," at Marion, for our sons, and the "Judson," at Marion and the "Alabama Central Female College," at Tuscaloosa, for our daughters, as institutions of learning worthy of patronage.

Resolved; That we heartily approve of the disposition

made of the "Alabama Baptist," by the Alabama Baptist State Convention, at its last session at Talladega, and recommend the paper to all as worthy of patronage. We also recommend "Kind Words," published at Macon, Ga., to all our Sunday Schools and families, as a great help in studying God's word.

Resolved; That we return our thanks to God for past favors, and to the brethren, and friends around Mt. Tabor, for their hospitality to us during the present session.

Adjourned to meet at time and place above named.

Eld. P. M. MUSGROVE, Mod.

W. Y. ADAMS, Clerk.

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APPENDIX.

TEMPERANCE (A.)—Your committee on Temperance offer the following report: We are commanded to be temperate in all things; we can be intemperate in the use of our tongues, such as evil speaking; talking to the injury of our brother, defaming his fair name. We can be intemperate in eating, making a god of our bellies. But the main point of this report is the evil of dram drinking.

Brethren, this is the crying sin of our age, and it behooves us, as the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, to set our faces like flint against this crying evil—even if we have to cut off our right hand, or pluck out our right eye. Let us insist that our churches shall be purified of this sin. Let the churches say to the dram drinker and whiskey maker, that we will not fellowship the works of darkness; and withdraw our fellowship from every brother that walks disorderly in this respect.

Respectfully submitted,

V. H. DEAN, Chm'n.

STATE OF RELIGION (B.)—Your committee beg leave to report that the State of Religion, within the bounds of our Association, is better than last year. There have been gracious revivals in many of the churches. The cause of our Lord and Master has been built up, and the name of God greatly glorified.

Brethren, let us be more consecrated to His service, pray more earnestly for the prosperity of Zion—ever abounding in the work of the Lord, in-as-much as we know that our labor shall not be *vain* in the Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. LYONS, Chm'n.

SABBATH SCHOOLS (C.)—Your committee beg leave to report that but two churches report Sabbath Schools. Brethren, this ought not to be. Every church in this Association ought to have a flourishing Bible School, where old and young, meet every Lord's day to read and study the good Book, then our noble young men and women would become giants in the knowledge of the Lord—bright shining lights in the kingdom of our God. Impressed with the importance of the Sabbath School work, your committee most earnestly urge this body to take some steps, by which this subject may be put before the churches in its true light; then, and not till then, will they act.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. THOMAS, Chm'n.

MISSIONS (D.)—The committee on Missions beg leave to report: That from the reading of the letters, sent to this body from the churches, it is plain that but little is doing in our midst to spread abroad the gospel of our salvation. Your committee beg to report, that the work of preaching the gospel is of Divine appointment. See the gospel by Mathew, 28th Chap., and Mark, Chap. 16th. The Lord of life and glory gave the high commission him-self, just after his resurrection, and before his ascension to the throne of his glory, to take the reins of universal empire, and therefore its announcement came to us with the authority of the God-head. Consequently, it is binding on the church, which he purchased with his own blood, and on every individual member of that church, till the end of time.

Preaching the gospel implies much more than the mere delivering of a sermon on the Lord's day by some person claiming authority from some ecclesiastical body to preach.

“Christ Jesus,” the great teacher, went about doing good. He taught in the “Temple,” in the “Jewish Synagogue,” by the sea side, by the way side, in the houses of the poor, in the midst of the throngs that pressed to hear him, at the well of Samaria, to the poor debased woman, by day and by night—he was the same great teacher—he did not wait for monthly occasions to preach and teach, not wait till he found a Synagogue to preach in. No, no. Every day offered an opportunity, every spot was a fit place to declare his gospel to the perishing race of mankind. What “love through all his actions ran, what mighty words of grace he spake;” so now he who goes forth to teach, bearing precious seed to sow, must be diligent, like his Master, to teach, to sow every day, everywhere, sow weeping, sow in prayers, sow in faith, sow by divine authority, sow in the morning, sow in the evening, sow

in the name of the Triune God, invoking the aid of God, the eternal spirit, for Christ's sake to bless the teaching and the sowing. The preacher and the sower must be "apt to teach." Big sermons are not required; simple, plain teaching *is*. Christ taught in plain, simple language, so did his apostles.

Important occasions, like our State Conventions and Associations, may, for good reasons, now and then, demand sermons to be more elaborate, but in the main, everywhere and on all occasions, "Christ and Him crucified," is the noblest, the fittest theme. If these things are true your committee are constrained, most earnestly, to recommend to the churches, within our bounds, to hold religious services, at their respective places of worship, on every Lord's day, suitable to old and young, such as the study of the Scriptures, reading, prayer and meditation. If it is so that the minister of the gospel can only be present once a month, when he is present let the exercises of God's house be simple, earnest, fervent, prayerful, full of the spirit of the Master. Your committee are so fully impressed with the truth of what is herein stated, that we most earnestly urge on the body now in session to appoint a Sunday School Evangelist, and Missionary, to labor in the bounds of our body the ensuing year, whose duty it shall be to aid in establishing Bible Schools in every church, to visit weak and feeble churches, and aid them to open their houses of worship every Lord's day for religious instruction and worship; thus coming up to the measure of duty in this great work.

There is much land yet to be possessed for the Lord, brethren, friends of Jesus, let us go up and possess it, for we are able.

We further recommend that the body now in session proceed to ascertain what can be secured in the way of the necessities of life, and money to support such an Evangelist in our bounds the ensuing year. Let our motto be, a Baptist church in every neighborhood, meeting every Lord's day for the worship of God.

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. WATSON, Chm'n.

DOCUMENTS (E.)—Your committee beg leave to report: Macedonia and White Plains churches each asks for the next session of the Association. Friendship church asks this body to re-district the Association, so as to have two, instead of three, districts.

Respectfully submitted,

E. K. HEAD, Chm'n.

MISSIONARY'S REPORT (F.)—I most respectfully report, that during the Associational year, just closed, to the best of my ability under God's help, I have labored in preaching the gospel to the destitute, and trust that much good has been done, to the glory of God, the father.

During the year I have received from brethren and friends the sum of one hundred and twenty-four dollars and seventy-five cents, for which I return my heartfelt thanks.

Respectfully submitted, JAMES FIELDS, Chm'n.

FINANCE REPORT (G.)

CHURCHES.	MINUTES.	CHURCHES.	MINUTES.
Pleasant Hill	\$ 75	Clear Spring	1 00
Mt. Tabor	2 00	Blue Spring	75
White Plain	1 50	Mt. Pleasant	1 50
Cullman	1 00	Walnut Grove	1 50
Austin's Creek	1 40	Harmony	1 50
Roswell Creek	50	Friendship	1 50
Rock Spring	1 10	Liberty	2 85
Macedonia	1 75	Blountsville	75
New Hope	1 00		
Mt. High	1 10	Total	\$23 45
RECAPITULATION.			
For Minutes			\$23 45
" Printing Circular			2 30
Pledges for Missions the ensuing year			76 00
Total			\$99 75

Respectfully submitted.

W. L. ELLISON, Chm'n.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

NAMES.	POST OFFICES.	COUNTY.
P. M. Musgrove,	Cullman,	Cullman.
James Fields,	Brookville,	Blount.
Eld. V. H. Dean,	Walnut Grove,	Etowah.
E. P. Mitchell,	Murphree's Valley,	Blount.
J. M. Steward,	Summit,	"
G. B. Wade,	Walnut Grove,	Etowah.
J. M. Thomas,	Cullman,	Cullman.
J. Y. Bain,	Guntersville,	Marshal.
W. B. Chambers,	"	"
W. L. Casey,	"	"
W. C. Reed,	Summit,	Blount.
P. R. Tennyson	"	"

LICENTIATES.

T. B. Goings,	Walnut Grove,	Etowah.
A. Dorman,	Balm,	Blount.
C. M. Thomas,	Murphree's Valley,	"
W. M. Cole,	Little Warrior,	"
J. C. Buckner,	Murphree's Valley,	"
John Cox,	Blount Springs,	"
W. H. Musgrove,	Gum Spring,	"
W. Y. Adams	" "	"

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POST OFFICE OF CLERKS.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	Total
1st. DISTRICT.					
Pleasant Hill	C A Burns	W H Jett	Blount Springs	W F Marphree, J M Marphree, J H Lett	20
Mt. Tabor	James Fields	W Y Adams	Gum Spring	W Y Adams, W M Hamblet, J Curl	1
White Plains	P M Musgrave	J A W Cox	Bangor	John Cox, S W Hays	43
Cullman	W W Watson	J W Watson	Cullman	P W Musgrave, J M Thomas, H W Watson	73
Roswell Creek	Wm Tengue	W W Kelson	Summit	J M Steward	8
Blountsville	Wm Tengue	C Turner	Blountsville	Jacob Ear s, A J Phillips, C Turner	26
Austin's Creek	P J Ellis	Henry Head	Henry Head	Jonathan Fail, E K Head, W B Roberts	11
2d. District.					43
Brock Spring	W H Lyons	J Y Bain	Guntersville	W H Lyons, S H Hyatt	81
Macedonia	A J McCarley	“	Brooksville	W M Richards, A J McCarkley, J Lowery	72
New Hope	B Chambers	“	Guntersville	E Bishop, R C Ledbetter	2
Mt. High	W L Casey	“	“	Letter but no Messenger	1
Clear Spring	“	J Y Bain	Warrenton	James Denigan	44
Bloc Spring	“	“	Brooksville	R J Thacker, J C Kimbrough	1
Harmony	G B Wade	W L Ellison	W. L. Ellison	A Dorman, W L Ellison, A F Whitley	1
Bristoe's Creek	“	“	Walnut Grove	Not represented	66
Friendship	Jas Fields	“	“	J W B. bo	6
Liberty	P Wade	“	“	Friendship	66
Mt. Pleasant	“	“	“	J P Mitchell, James Carns, C M Thomas	108
Walnut Grove	“	“	“	Jas Fields, T K McDonald, J D Hendricks	2
				V H Dean	71
					39
					39
					906
				Total	8
					906



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